

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 12. (canceled).

13. (new): Device for preventing laces coming undone in the form of a band (1) in the open position, arranged to cover a lace (3) of a shoe (4) and comprising

- a left-hand end (12, 13) and a right-hand end (13, 12), each comprising mutual fixing means (6, 7),

- means (2) of fixing the said band (1) to the said shoe (4),

- a series of orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass,

the said device being designed to be folded down in the closed position by fixing the left-hand end (12, 13) to the right-hand end (13, 12) by the said mutual fixing means (6, 7), the length of the said device (1) for preventing laces coming undone being substantially perpendicular to the axial direction of the shoe (4) characterised in that the said device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is designed, when it is in the closed position, to only partially cover the loops (5) of a knot (8) of a lace (3), when the latter is knotted.

14. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the mutual means (6, 7) of fixing the said left-hand side (12, 13) of the device for covering laces to the right-hand side (13, 12) are mutual self-gripping means (6, 7).

15. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the series of orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass comprises several orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass.

16. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that at least one of the orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass in the said series is in the form of a slit.

17. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that it comprises a series of lace passage orifices (2) comprising two orifices (2) in the form of a slit and two substantially circular orifices (2), the said slits (2) being situated one above the other parallel to a long side of the said device (1) for preventing laces coming undone, the two substantially circular orifices (2) being situated in particular on each side of the two slits (2) with respect to the said long side of the said device (1).

18. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the device (1) can comprise a repetition of the patterns of the orifices (2), the said patterns being situated one above the other parallel to a long side of the said device (1).

19. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one claim 13, characterised in that the length is between 5 cm and 10 cm and is more particularly approximately 6.5 cm, and the width is between 1 cm and 5 cm and is preferably approximately 2 cm and approximately 4.5 cm according to the model.

20. (new): Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the said band (1) is formed by a piece made from leather, textile, flexible plastics material, articulated metal or any material that is deformable in order to bring the band (1) into its closed position.

21. (new) Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13, characterised in that the said means of fixing the said device to the shoe consist partly of the said lace (3).

22. (new): Assembly comprising

- a device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 13,
- a shoe (4) with a lace (3) comprising a rectangular-shaped tongue (9) and a lace (3),

characterised in that the device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is an integral part of the tongue (9) of the shoe (4).

23. (new): Assembly according to claim 22, characterised in that the device (1) for preventing laces coming undone and the orifices (2) are cut in at least one layer of material constituting the said tongue (9).

24. (new): Assembly according to claim 22, characterised in that the device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is cut in the top half of the said tongue (9).